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7590 10/03/2006
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EXAMINER	
CHANNAVAJJALA, SRIRAMA T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2166	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,327

Applicant(s)

HARTENSTEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Srirama Channavajjala

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/8/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2. The Drawings filed on 3/25/2004 are acceptable for examination purpose, however, formal drawings are required in response to this office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed on 9/8/2004 [3-pages] is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, and has been considered and a copy is enclosed with this Office Action.

Priority

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for domestic priority based on provisional application No. **60/437,839**, filed on 03/25/2003 under 35 U.S.C. 119(e).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. At page 59, claim 5, line 18-19, "a first control; and a second control" is not described in the specification. Upon reviewing the specification, examiner found that there is no support for "a first control; and a second control"

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. At page 59, claim 5, line 18-19, it is not clear what is meant by "a first control; and a second control" for compact prosecution, examiner assumes first control and second control is related to list of operations or selection of collaboration services operable to permit initiation of collaboration session, a contact display that presents to

selection of one or more contacts for the collaboration session in the office action and treated .

No new matter should be entered

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

9. ***Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.***

As set forth in MPEP 2106(II)A:

Identify and understand Any Practical Application Asserted for the Invention The claimed invention as a whole must accomplish a practical application. That is, it must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result." State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47USPQ2d at 1601-02. The purpose of this requirement is to limit patent protection to inventions that possess a certain level of "real world" value, as opposed to subject matter that represents nothing more than an idea or concept, or is simply a starting point for future investigation or research (Brenner v. Manson, 383 U.S. 519, 528-36, 148 USPQ 689, 693-96); In re Ziegler, 992, F.2d 1197, 1200-03, 26 USPQ2d 1600, 1603-06 (Fed. Cir. 1993)). Accordingly, a complete disclosure should contain some indication of the practical application for the claimed invention, i.e., why the applicant believes the claimed invention is useful.

Apart from the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101, usefulness under the patent eligibility standard requires significant functionality to be present to satisfy the useful result aspect of the practical application requirement. See Arrhythmia, 958 F.2d at 1057, 22 USPQ2d at 1036. Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material stored in a computer-readable medium does not make the invention eligible for patenting. For example, a claim directed to a word processing file stored on a disk may satisfy the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 since the information stored may have some “real world” value. However, the mere fact that the claim may satisfy the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 does not mean that a useful result is achieved under the practical application requirement. The claimed invention as a whole must produce a “useful, concrete and tangible” result to have a practical application.

10. Regarding Claim 1, ‘a method for affiliation management, the method comprising:
a step for providing a store comprising:

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality
describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the
second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees
to tasks; and indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective
person of the first plurality of records;

a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;

a step for providing a control in the first user session;

a step for creating a second identified affiliation in response to operation of the control; and a step for providing a second presentation in accordance with the second identified affiliation in a second user session identified to a second person” is directed to “abstract idea” because all of the elements in the claim 1 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as software, such that the method is software, per se, is “non-statutory subject matter” and **claim 1** do not have “practical application” because the “final result” by the claimed invention in the claim 1 elements particularly ***“a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;***

a step for providing a control in the first user session;

a step for creating a second identified affiliation in response to operation of the control; and a step for providing a second presentation in accordance with the second identified affiliation in a second user session identified to a second person” is merely software routines or steps related to data structure, but do not produce “useful, tangible and concrete” result, therefore, claim 1 is a non-statutory

subject matter. The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a ***“useful, concrete result.”*** In other words ‘the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 1 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to ***“a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the***

first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;

a step for providing a control in the first user session;

a step for creating a second identified affiliation in response to operation of the control; and a step for providing a second presentation in accordance with the second identified affiliation in a second user session identified to a second person” however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output , displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (“***a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;***

a step for providing a control in the first user session;

a step for creating a second identified affiliation in response to operation of the control; and a step for providing a second presentation in accordance with the second identified affiliation in a second user session identified to a second person”). If the applicant is able to find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

Claims 2-4 depends from claim 1 is also rejected in the above analysis.

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11. Regarding claim 5, "A method for affiliation management, the method comprising:
a step for providing a store comprising:

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality
describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment;

first indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of
the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and
assignees to tasks;

a third plurality of records each describing a charge of at least one of a time
period and an expense;

second indicia of associations between records of the first plurality, records of the
second plurality, and records of the third plurality; and third indicia of a plurality of
identified affiliations;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective
person of the first plurality of records;

a step for providing in a first user session identified to a first person:

a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first
plurality and the second plurality according to an identified affiliation;

a first control; and a second control;

a step for creating a record of the third plurality in response to user operation of
the first control;

a step for receiving a request in response to user operation of the second control, the request comprising indicia of criteria; and

a step for downloading in a format for accounting a multiplicity of field values of records of the third plurality of records in accordance with the criteria” is directed to “abstract idea” because all of the elements in the claim 1 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as software, such that the method is software, per se, is “non-statutory subject matter” and **claim 5** do not have “practical application” because the “final result” by the claimed invention in the claim 5 elements particularly ***“a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality according to an identified affiliation;***

a first control; and a second control;

a step for creating a record of the third plurality in response to user operation of the first control;

a step for receiving a request in response to user operation of the second control, the request comprising indicia of criteria; and

a step for downloading in a format for accounting a multiplicity of field values of records of the third plurality of records in accordance with the criteria” is merely software routines or steps related to data structure, but do not produce “useful, and concrete” result, therefore, claim 5 is a non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a ***“useful, concrete result.”*** In other words ‘the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 5 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to ***“a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality according to an identified affiliation;***

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a first control; and a second control;

a step for creating a record of the third plurality in response to user operation of the first control;

a step for receiving a request in response to user operation of the second control, the request comprising indicia of criteria; and a step for downloading in a format for accounting a multiplicity of field values of records of the third plurality of records in accordance with the criteria” however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output , displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (“***a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality according to an identified affiliation;***

a first control; and a second control;

a step for creating a record of the third plurality in response to user operation of the first control;

a step for receiving a request in response to user operation of the second control, the request comprising indicia of criteria; and a step for downloading in a format for accounting a multiplicity of field values of records of the third plurality of records in accordance with the criteria”). If the

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applicant is able to find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

12. Regarding claim 6, "A method for affiliation management, the method comprising:
a step for providing a store comprising:

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective person of the first plurality of records;

a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising a first multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation; and

a step for providing a second presentation in a second user session identified to a second person, the second presentation comprising a second multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a second identified affiliation; wherein the second multiplicity includes at least one field value of the first multiplicity and at least one field value not of the first multiplicity"

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is directed to "abstract idea" because all of the elements in the claim 6 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as software, such that the method is software, per se, is "non-statutory subject matter" and **claim 6** do not have "practical application" because the "final result" by the claimed invention in the claim 6 elements particularly ***"a step for providing a second presentation in a second user session identified to a second person, the second presentation comprising a second multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a second identified affiliation; wherein the second multiplicity includes at least one field value of the first multiplicity and at least one field value not of the first multiplicity"*** is merely software routines or steps related to data structure, but do not produce "useful, and concrete" result, therefore, claim 6 is a non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a ***"useful, concrete result."*** In other words 'the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 6 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to “**a step for providing a second presentation in a second user session identified to a second person, the second presentation comprising a second multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a second identified affiliation; wherein the second multiplicity includes at least one field value of the first multiplicity and at least one field value not of the first multiplicity**” however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output , displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (**a step for providing a second presentation in a second**

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user session identified to a second person, the second presentation comprising a second multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a second identified affiliation; wherein the second multiplicity includes at least one field value of the first multiplicity and at least one field value not of the first multiplicity). If the applicant is able to find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

13. Regarding claim 7, "A method for affiliation management, the method comprising: a step for providing a store of identified affiliation information, the store comprising:

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective person of the first plurality of records;

a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;

a step for providing a control in the first user session for beginning a chat session; and

a step for providing a list of persons identified to other active user sessions selected from records of the first plurality in accordance with the criteria of the first identified affiliation” is directed to “abstract idea” because all of the elements in the claim 7 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as software, such that the method is software, per se, is “non-statutory subject matter” and **claim 7** do not have “practical application” because the “final result” by the claimed invention in the claim 7 elements particularly ***“a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;***

a step for providing a control in the first user session for beginning a chat session; and

a step for providing a list of persons identified to other active user sessions selected from records of the first plurality in accordance with the criteria of the first identified affiliation” is merely software routines or steps related to data structure, but do not produce “useful, and concrete” result, therefore, claim 7 is a non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention

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must produce a **“useful, concrete result.”** In other words ‘the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 7 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to ***a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;***

a step for providing a control in the first user session for beginning a chat session; and

a step for providing a list of persons identified to other active user sessions selected from records of the first plurality in accordance with the criteria of the first identified affiliation, however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output , displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (to ***a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation;***

a step for providing a control in the first user session for beginning a chat session; and

a step for providing a list of persons identified to other active user sessions selected from records of the first plurality in accordance with the criteria of the first identified affiliation). If the applicant is able to find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

Claim 8 is depend from claim 7 is also rejected in the analysis of claim 7 above.

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14. Regarding claim 9, "A store comprising: a first plurality of records each describing a respective person;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks;

a third plurality of records each describing a note;

indicia of associations between records of the third plurality and at least one of records the first plurality and records of the second plurality;

indicia of subject for associating records of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality, each respective association in accordance with a common subject; and indicia of affiliations, each affiliation being associated with a multiplicity of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality of records"

is directed to "abstract idea" because all of the elements in the claim 9 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as software, such that the method is software, per se, is "non-statutory subject matter" and **claim 9** do not have "practical application" because the "final result" by the claimed invention in the claim 9 elements particularly ***"indicia of associations between records of the third plurality and at least one of records the first plurality and records of the second plurality;***

indicia of subject for associating records of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality, each respective association in accordance with a common subject; and indicia of affiliations, each affiliation being associated with a multiplicity of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality of records” is merely software routines or steps related to data structure, but do not produce “useful, and concrete” result, therefore, claim 9 is a non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a ***“useful, concrete result.”*** In other words “the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial

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exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 9 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to “ ***indicia of associations between records of the third plurality and at least one of records the first plurality and records of the second plurality;***

indicia of subject for associating records of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality, each respective association in accordance with a common subject; and indicia of affiliations, each affiliation being associated with a multiplicity of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality of records”, however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output , displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 18-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (***indicia of associations between records of the third plurality and at least one of records the first plurality and records of the second plurality;***

indicia of subject for associating records of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality, each respective association in accordance with a common subject; and indicia of affiliations, each affiliation being associated with

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a multiplicity of the first plurality, the second plurality, and the third plurality of records"). If the applicant is able to find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

15. Regarding claim 13, "A method for affiliation management, the method comprising: a step for providing a store comprising: a first plurality of records each describing a respective person;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations;

a step for providing a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation and a first aggregation;

a step for receiving a request to edit a field value of a record of the store thereby creating a modified field value; and a step for providing a control comprising a list of alternate aggregations for user activation in place of the first aggregation, the list including a particular aggregation operative in accordance with the modified field value" is directed to "abstract idea" because all of the elements in the claim 13 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 17-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as

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software, such that the method is software, per se, is “non-statutory subject matter” and **claim 13** do not have “practical application” because the “final result” by the claimed invention in the claim 13 elements particularly ***“a step for receiving a request to edit a field value of a record of the store thereby creating a modified field value; and a step for providing a control comprising a list of alternate aggregations for user activation in place of the first aggregation, the list including a particular aggregation operative in accordance with the modified field value”*** is merely software routines or steps related to manipulating data structure, but do not produce “useful, and concrete” result, therefore, claim 13 is a non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a ***“useful, concrete result.”*** In other words the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The **Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility** states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 13 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to “**a step for receiving a request to edit a field value of a record of the store thereby creating a modified field value; and a step for providing a control comprising a list of alternate aggregations for user activation in place of the first aggregation, the list including a particular aggregation operative in accordance with the modified field value**”, however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output , displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 17-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (**a step for receiving a request to edit a field value of a record of the store thereby creating a modified field value; and a step for providing a control comprising a list of alternate aggregations for user activation in place of the first aggregation, the list including a particular aggregation operative in accordance with the modified field value**”). If the applicant is able to

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find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

16. Regarding claim 18, "A method for communicating among users of a plurality of users, the method performed by a server, the method comprising:

providing a list of items to any particular user of the plurality, wherein: each item is of a common type, the common type being of a set of types including a contact, an appointment, and a task; and each item is associated with a respective set of controls, wherein:

each respective set of controls comprises respective controls of common appearance as respective controls of each other set of controls; and each respective control of each set, when activated by a user, performs a function in accordance with the item to which it is associated; and

accepting input of the particular user to activate a particular control to facilitate at least one of the creation of a new item,

accessing a created item, and accessing a second list of created items, the second list prepared according to the method" is directed to "abstract idea" because all of the elements in the claim 18 would reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in light of the disclosure at page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 17-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53, as software, such that the method is software, per se, is "non-statutory subject matter" and **claim 18** do not have "practical application" because the "final result" by the claimed invention in the claim 18 elements particularly

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“accessing a created item, and accessing a second list of created items, the second list prepared according to the method” is merely software routines or steps related to manipulating data structure, but do not produce “useful, and concrete” result, therefore, claim 18 is a non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a ***“useful, concrete result.”*** In other words ‘the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a § 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that § 101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. *Benson*, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had “no substantial practical application.”).

[If] Claims 18 have the result of producing “real-world” results related to “**accessing a created item, and accessing a second list of created items, the second list prepared according to the method**”, however the claim[s] do not specify that the result either output, displayed or at least stored to a user or otherwise used in the real world.

The examiner reviewed the specification page 7,0028, page 10-14, page 17-21, page 44-45, page 46-47, page 49-50, page 52-53 but was unable to find a practical real-world use of the result (**accessing a created item, and accessing a second list of created items, the second list prepared according to the method**”). If the applicant is able to find one and inserts it into the claims provide the location the element is found in the specification.

17. Claims 1,5-7,13 preamble merely directed to “A method for affiliation management”, claim 9 is simply directed to “A store comprising: but fail to include a **general description in the preamble**”

Claim 20, preamble reads “ A memory device comprising instructions for performing the method of claim 18

Remarks:

Examiner suggests that the applicant consider amending claims 1,5-7,9,13,20 preamble to include general description. See MPEP 608.01 Claims: any claim should

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contain the following order: (a) a preamble comprising a general description of all the elements of steps of the claimed combination which are convention or known.....

Examiner also suggests claim 20 should read " A computer-readable storage medium....., if specification sufficiently disclosed..

For "General Analysis for Determining Patent-Eligible Subject Matter", see 101 Interim Guidelines as indicated below:

<<<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/ogsheet.html>>>

No new matter to be added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

19. ***Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Behnia***

US Publication No. 2003/0088536 filed on April 9, 2001 and published on May 8, 2003

20. As to claim 1, Behnia teaches a system which including ' a method for affiliation management [page 5, col 2, 0098], affiliation management corresponds to plurality of

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departments within an organization, the method comprising: a step for providing a store comprising:

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person' [page 7, col 1, 0113-0114, 0117], plurality of records corresponds to list of entities related to specific username, password and session ID as detailed in 0113-0114, 0117;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment' [page 13, col 2, 0226, 0228, fig 11, fig 13A], second plurality of records corresponds to task and appointment as detailed in fig 11, 13A;;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations' [fig 7, page 13, col 2, 0230], Behnia specifically suggests user is linked to a specific project tab linking project, and root application category that is associated with the calendar items;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective person of the first plurality of records [page 5, col 2, 0099, line 8-10, page 7, 0113-0115] Behnia specifically teaches user session ID association with username as detailed in page 7, 0113-0115;;

a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, the first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation' [page 14, col 1, 0235];

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a step for providing a control in the first user session [page 14, col 1, 0236];
a step for creating a second identified affiliation in response to operation of the control;
and a step for providing a second presentation in accordance with the second identified affiliation in a second user session identified to a second person' [page 14, col 2, 0241],
Behnia specifically suggests user associated with the specific project including records listed providing to the second user.

21. As to claim 2-4, Behnia disclosed 'a step for managing usage rights for each session' [page 7, col 1, 0116]; and a step for granting a usage right to the second person for creating during the second session an association of the second identified affiliation to a multiplicity of the first plurality of records not used in providing the first presentation' [page 6, col 1, 0102].

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22. Claim 5,7-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bjoernsen et al [hereafter Bjoernsen], US Publication No. 2004/0174392 filed on March 3, 2003 and published on Sept 9,2004.

23. As to claim 5, A method for affiliation management [page 1, col 1, 0005], affiliation management corresponds to collaboration servers having collaboration sessions;

‘a first plurality of records each describing a respective person’ [page 6, col 2, 0068,], Bjoernsen specifically teaches various records related to the user’s collaboration session;

‘a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment’ [fig 9, page 6, col 2, 0069], Bjoernsen specifically teaches calendar particularly suggests task and appointments;

first indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments [fig 10, element 244] and assignees to tasks [see fig 10, page 6, col 2, 0070];

‘a third plurality of records each describing a charge of at least one of a time period and an expense’ [fig 9, session history, element 230, page 4, col 2, 0049, line 8-12];

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second indicia of associations between records of the first plurality, records of the second plurality [fig 12, element 258], and records of the third plurality; and third indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations' [fig 12, element 262,246], page 8, col 1, 0084];

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective person of the first plurality of records' [page 5, col 2, 0059, line 8-10], Bjoernsen specifically suggests user session information is stored in the repository, fig 4, element 140 particularly session participant or user along with identifier and time stamp as detailed in page 5, col 2, 0059]; ;

a step for providing in a first user session identified to a first person [page 5, col 2, 0059]:

a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality according to an identified affiliation [page 5, col 2, 0059, line 3-10, 0060, line 4-8]

a first control; and a second control [page 1, col 2, 0010];

a step for creating a record of the third plurality in response to user operation of the first control [page 4, col 2, 0049, line 12-18], Bjoernsen specifically suggests various records for example session start, end dates, times, session subject, session invitation text, session host, participants and like that including documents as detailed in page 4, 0049, line 12-18;;

a step for receiving a request in response to user operation of the second control, the request comprising indicia of criteria' [page 4, col 2, 0052, line 1-7]

'a step for downloading in a format for accounting a multiplicity of field values of records of the third plurality of records in accordance with the criteria' [page 8, col 2, 0087, line 9-18]

24. As to claim 7, 9, Bjoernsen teaches a system which including 'a method for affiliation management [page 1, col 1, 0005], affiliation management corresponds to collaboration servers having collaboration sessions;

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person [page 6, col 2, 0068,], Bjoernsen specifically teaches various records related to the user's collaboration session;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment [fig 9, page 6, col 2, 0069], Bjoernsen specifically teaches calendar particularly suggests task and appointments;;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks [fig 10, element 244] and assignees to tasks [see fig 10, page 6, col 2, 0070];

indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations [fig 12, element 262,246], page 8, col 1, 0084];;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective person of the first plurality of records [page 5, col 2, 0059, line 8-10], Bjoernsen

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specifically suggests user session information is stored in the repository, fig 4, element 140 particularly session participant or user along with identifier and time stamp as detailed in page 5, col 2, 0059];

a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, [page 5, col 2, 0059]: 'the first presentation comprising a field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation [page 5, col 2, 0060, line 4-8];

'a step for providing a control in the first user session for beginning a chat session' [page 9, col 1, line 10-13, fig 13], Bjoernsen specifically suggests chat session as detailed in fig 13;; 'a step for providing a list of persons identified to other active user sessions selected from records of the first plurality in accordance with the criteria of the first identified affiliation' [page 9, col 1, 0093, fig 13-14].

25. As to claim 8, Bjoernsen disclosed 'indicia of a project identified to a first multiplicity of records of the first plurality and to a second multiplicity of records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and the list is further selected in accordance with indicia of the project' [fig 9-10, page 6, col 2, 0070].

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26. As to claim 10, Bjoernsen disclosed 'common subject comprises indicia of a person of the first plurality of records' [fig 10]

27. As to claim 11, Bjoernsen disclosed 'common subject comprises a indicia of an item of the second plurality of records' [page 3, col 1, 0036]

28. As to claim 12, Bjoernsen disclosed 'indicia of a project identified to a first multiplicity of records of the first plurality and to a second multiplicity of records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and the common subject comprises indicia of the project' [fig 9-10, page 6, col 2, 0070].

29. As to claim 13, Bjoernsen teaches a system which including 'a method for affiliation management [page 1, col 1, 0005], affiliation management corresponds to collaboration servers having collaboration sessions

[page 6, col 2, 0068,], Bjoernsen specifically teaches various records related to the user's collaboration session;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment [fig 9, page 6, col 2, 0069], Bjoernsen specifically teaches calendar particularly suggests task and appointments;;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks [fig 10, element 244] and assignees to tasks [see fig 10, page 6, col 2, 0070]; indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations [fig 12, element 262,246], page 8, col 1, 0084];;

a step for providing a first presentation comprising field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation [page 5, col 2, 0059, line 3-10, 0060, line 4-8]; and a first aggregation [page 6, col 1, 0062];

a step for receiving a request to edit a field value of a record of the store thereby creating a modified field value' [page 5, col 1, 0055, line 9-11], Bjoernsen suggests editing meeting record[s] as detailed in page 5, 0055;

a step for providing a control comprising a list of alternate aggregations for user activation in place of the first aggregation, the list including a particular aggregation operative in accordance with the modified field value' [page 5, col 1, 0055, line 11-16].

30. As to claim 14, Bjoernsen disclosed 'a step for creating the particular aggregation' [page 5, col 1, 0056, line 1-4].

31. As to claim 15-16, Bjoernsen disclosed 'modified field value comprises indicia of a person of the first plurality of records' [page 8, col 2, 0088, line 12-16].

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32. As to claim 17, Bjoernsen disclosed 'ndicia of a project identified to a first multiplicity of records of the first plurality and to a second multiplicity of records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks; and the modified field value comprises indicia of the project' [fig 9-10, page 6, col 2, 0070].

33. As to claim 18, 20, Bjoernsen teaches a system which including 'a method for communicating among users of a plurality of users' [page 2, col 2, 0032, line 9-11, page 3, col 2, 0040, line 1-5, fig 1], Bjoernsen specifically teaches collaboration session with one or more users as detailed in 0032, fig 1; the method performed by a server' [page 10, col 1, 0103], Bjoernsen specifically suggests client-server communication network;, providing a list of items to any particular user of the plurality' [fig 9, page 6, col 2, 0069], Bjoernsen teaches scheduled collaboration calendar is presented to the user as shown in fig 9,

wherein: each item is of a common type, the common type being of a set of types including a contact, an appointment, and a task; and each item is associated with a respective set of controls' [fig 10, page 6, col 2, 0070, line 1-8], menu is displayed to the user with number of contacts for example as shown in fig 10, common type, the common type being a set of types including a contact corresponds to Bjoernsen's fig 10, contacts;,,

wherein: each respective set of controls comprises respective controls of common appearance as respective controls of each other set of controls' [page 6, col 2,

0070, line 10-11], Bjoernsen specifically teaches contacts are shown as hyperlinks, common appearance corresponds to contacts are in hyperlinks;

'each respective control of each set, when activated by a user, performs a function in accordance with the item to which it is associated' [page 6, col 2, 0070, line 10-18, fig 10], Bjoernsen suggests user selects contact displayed by opening an empty e-mail addressed to the contact as detailed in page 6, 0070, fig 10;

accepting input of the particular user to activate a particular control to facilitate at least one of the creation of a new item, accessing a created item, and accessing a second list of created items, the second list prepared according to the method' [page 7, col 1, 0072], Bjoernsen suggests user selects or selecting check box so that user can select required contacts and that causes the session to launch automatically with selected contacts as detailed in page 7, col 1, 0072.

34. As to claim 19, Bjoernsen disclosed 'wherein the control comprises an icon having a multiplicity of appearances, each appearance conveying a status of a second item accessible via activation of the icon' [page 7, col 1, 0073].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

35. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

36. ***Claims 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjoernsen et al [hereafter Bjoernsen], US Publication No. 2004/0174392 filed on March 3, 2003 and published on Sept 9,200 in view of Lu, US Patent No. 7039596, filed on Oct 30,2002.***

37. As to claim 6, Bjoernsen teaches a system which including 'a method for affiliation management [page 1, col 1, 0005], affiliation management corresponds to collaboration servers having collaboration sessions;

a first plurality of records each describing a respective person [page 6, col 2, 0068,], Bjoernsen specifically teaches various records related to the user's collaboration session;

a second plurality of records wherein each record of the second plurality describes a respective item comprising at least one of a task and an appointment

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[fig 9, page 6, col 2, 0069], Bjoernsen specifically teaches calendar particularly suggests task and appointments;;

indicia of associations between records of the first plurality and records of the second plurality to associate at least one of attendees to appointments and assignees to tasks [fig 10, element 244] and assignees to tasks [see fig 10, page 6, col 2, 0070];

indicia of a plurality of identified affiliations [fig 12, element 262,246], page 8, col 1, 0084];;

a step for managing user sessions, each user session identified to a respective person of the first plurality of records [page 5, col 2, 0059, line 8-10], Bjoernsen specifically suggests user session information is stored in the repository, fig 4, element 140 particularly session participant or user along with identifier and time stamp as detailed in page 5, col 2, 0059];

a step for providing a first presentation in a first user session identified to a first person, [page 5, col 2, 0059]:

'the first presentation comprising a first multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a first identified affiliation [page 5, col 2, 0060, line 4-8];

'a step for providing a second presentation in a second user session identified to a second person, the second presentation comprising a second multiplicity of field values of records selected from the first plurality and the second plurality in accordance with a second identified affiliation[page 4, col 2, 0051]. It is however, noted that Bjoernsen does not specifically teach 'wherein the second multiplicity includes at least one field value of the first multiplicity and at least one field value not of the first multiplicity. On the other hand, Lu disclosed 'wherein the second multiplicity includes at least one field value of the first multiplicity and at least one field value not of the first multiplicity [col 8, line 56-67, col 9, line 1-4, fig 4], Lu suggests multiple calendars refers to specific programs having field information different from other calendar field.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Lu into collaboration launchpad of Bjoernsen et al. because both Bjoernsen, Lu specifically teaches calendar, contacts, events, schedules and appointments [see Bjoernsen: fig 9; Lu: fig 4], both Bjoernsen, Lu suggests sharing calendar events, appointments with other users [Lu: col 9, line 38-44; Bjoernsen: page 3, col 2, 0040] and both are from same field of endeavor.

one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Lu into collaboration launchpad of Bjoernsen et al. because that would have allowed users of Bjoernsen to create and view multiple electronic calendars side-by-side, furthermore allows to import events information from second electronic calendar into the first electronic calendar while maintaining event information

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[see Lu: col 3, line 42-50], also allows to updating the combined view to reflect a change to at least one of the existing entries [see Lu: col 3, line 66-67, col 4, line 1-3], thus improving the quality and reliability of electronic calendar.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record

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|----|---------------|--------------|
| a. | US Pub.No. . | 2003/0088563 |
| b. | US Ppub. .No. | 20040174392 |
| c. | US Patent No. | 7039596 |

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srirama Channavajjala whose telephone number is 571-272-4108. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam, Hosain, T, can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone numbers for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)

SC

Patent Examiner.

September 26, 2006.


SRIRAMA CHANNAVAJJALA
PRIMARY EXAMINER